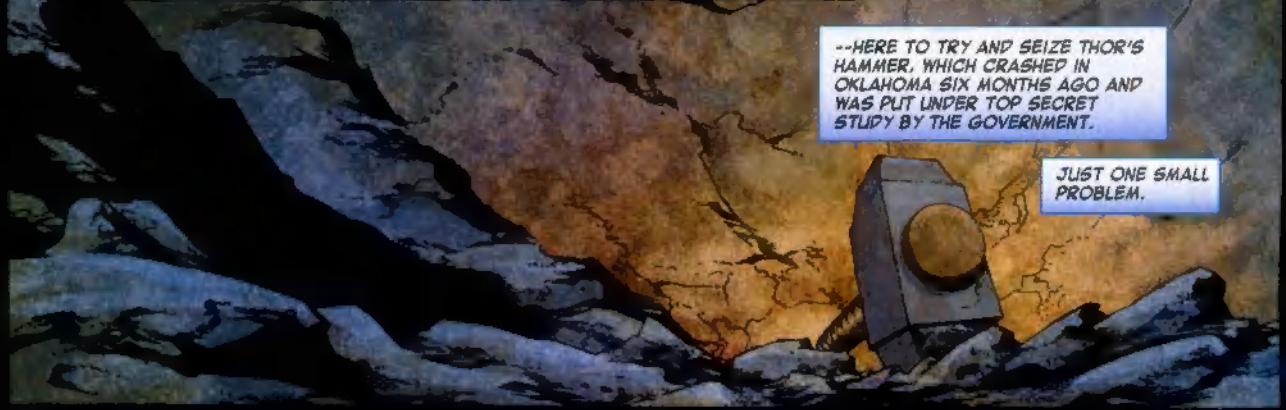




VICTOR VON DOOM
AND HIS DOOMBOTS--



--HERE TO TRY AND SEIZE THOR'S HAMMER, WHICH CRASHED IN OKLAHOMA SIX MONTHS AGO AND WAS PUT UNDER TOP SECRET STUDY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

JUST ONE SMALL PROBLEM.



IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.

YOU CAN'T BE HERE...WE LEFT YOU IN HELL, WITH NO WAY OUT.

YES, YOU DID.

HOW DID YOU GET OUT?



HOW... DID I GET OUT?

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"HOW...DID I
GET OUT?"

BEREFT OF MY
TECHNOLOGY...

...MYSTIC ARMOR
DAMAGED...OFFENSIVE
AND DEFENSIVE
CAPABILITIES MINIMAL.

ENEMY
FORCES...

...SUBSTANTIAL.



IT MATTERS NOT.
EVEN CORNERED, TO
MY LAST BREATH I REMAIN
WHO AND WHAT I AM.
I WILL NOT HIDE, NOR
TREMBLE, NOR BEG.

LET THEM
COME AND RECKON
WITH FURY THAT IS
DOOM DEFIANT.

HERE I
STAND, HELL-
HORDE!
UNBOWED!

BUT UNDERSTAND: IF IT IS MY DESTINY
THAT I SHOULD PERISH THIS DAY, I
SHALL NOT GO DOWN EASILY...AND I
SHALL NOT GO DOWN ALONE.



RIP ITS
SKIN...

WEAR
IT FOR
HIDE.

ITS
EYES FOR
ME.

TEAR ITS
FLESH FROM
ITS BONES.



ZZZZZAAAAAASSSHHHHH!

YES, COME,
AND LET US
MAKE AN END
OF IT--



THERE IS
DOOM ENOUGH
FOR ALL!



WHAT...THAT
SOUND...AS IF
THE SKY WERE
TEARING ITSELF
APART--

BAD BOOM!!

THE
GODS--



--THE
GODS...ARE
DYING.



WHAT...
MADNESS...
IS THIS?

I KNOW THESE
FACES...THEY ARE
ASGARDIANS...
LOCKED IN A FINAL,
PITCHED BATTLE...
DYING...DYING...



...RAGNAROK...

...THE DEATH
OF THE NORDIC
GODS.

EDITOR'S NOTE: AS SEEN IN **THOR #80-85**, JUST IN CASE YOU THOUGHT WE WERE MAKING THIS STUFF UP. --TOM



THE MAGNITUDE
OF THEIR BATTLE IS
ECHOING ACROSS
CREATION...RENDING
THE VERY FABRIC OF
HELL ITSELF!



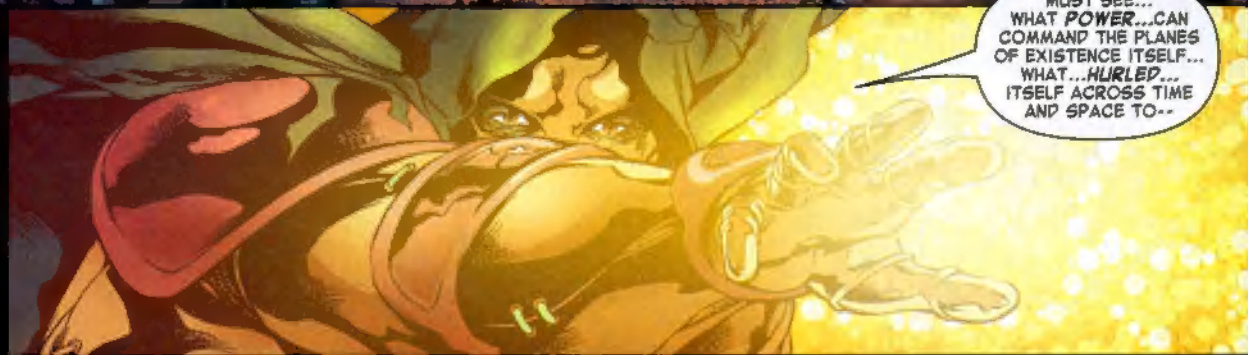
THERE! SOMETHING
MOVES THROUGH THE
TEARS IN HELL'S
DIMENSIONAL PLANE...
PASSING RIGHT
BENEATH ME...NO TIME
TO HESITATE.



NOW!



FORCES...TEARING
AT MY FLESH...MUST
FORCE MYSELF...TO
MOVE WITH THE
ENERGY...TO RIDE
IT THROUGH--



MUST SEE...
WHAT **POWER...** CAN
COMMAND THE PLANES
OF EXISTENCE ITSELF...
WHAT...**HURLED...**
ITSELF ACROSS TIME
AND SPACE TO--



DO MY EYES
DECEIVE ME?
CAN IT BE?



IT IS THE
HAMMER OF
THOR!



I CAN FEEL
ITS POWER...ITS
COMMAND OVER
NATURAL AND
SUPERNATURAL
ALIKE. I MUST
REACH IT...I
MUST--



THE CURRENTS...
FIGHT ME...CANNOT
PRESS...PAST THEM...
JUST A LITTLE
MORE....

...NO...NO...
I--

Noooooooo!



...GONE...
GONE...



"THE QUESTION REMAINS, OF COURSE, HOW CAN WE TURN THIS TO OUR ADVANTAGE?"



WITH THE DEPARTURE OF OUR LATE LAMENTED LEADER NOW ENTERING ITS SECOND YEAR, I THINK IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME DOOM WILL NEVER BE RETURNING TO LATVERIA.

THUS DO HIS... TOYS... FALL TO OUR POSSESSION.



BEFORE WE CAN USE THEM FOR OUR OWN PURPOSES, WE MUST REPRESS THEM INTO SOMETHING A BIT MORE...CONTEMPORARY, MORE ACCEPTABLE, MORE...US.

OR WE LEAVE THEM AS THEY ARE...TO INTIMIDATE THE PEOPLE INTO THINKING THAT DOOM WALKS AMONG US STILL.



HIS EGOTISM WAS TRULY AMAZING. TO HAVE AN ARMY OF MECHANICALS YOU DO NOT NEED A FACE AT ALL...BUT HE GAVE THEM HIS OWN FACE, SO THAT WHEN HE LOOKED UP, HE SAW HIS OWN IMAGE, REFLECTED A HUNDRED TIMES.

ANY OTHER MAN--

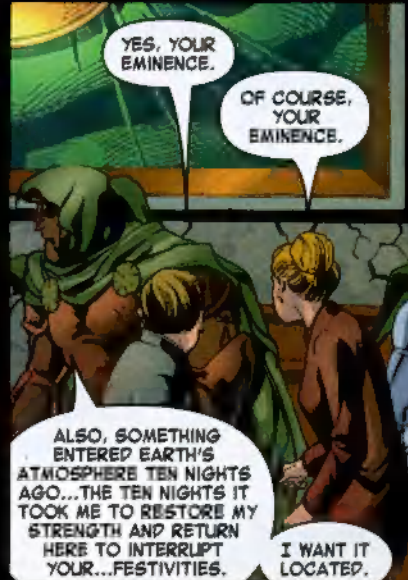


URKK-

ANY OTHER MAN--



--WOULD NOT BE VICTOR VON DOOM.







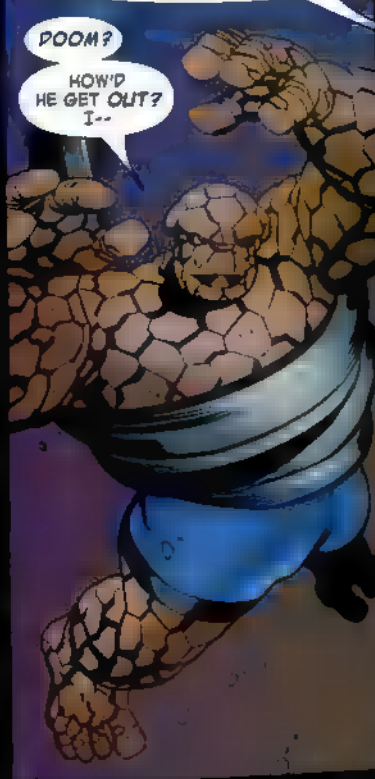
I CAN BUY US A MINUTE, REED, BUT NO MORE.

WE DON'T HAVE MORE THAN THAT ANYWAY, SUE.

BEN... GRAB HOLD.

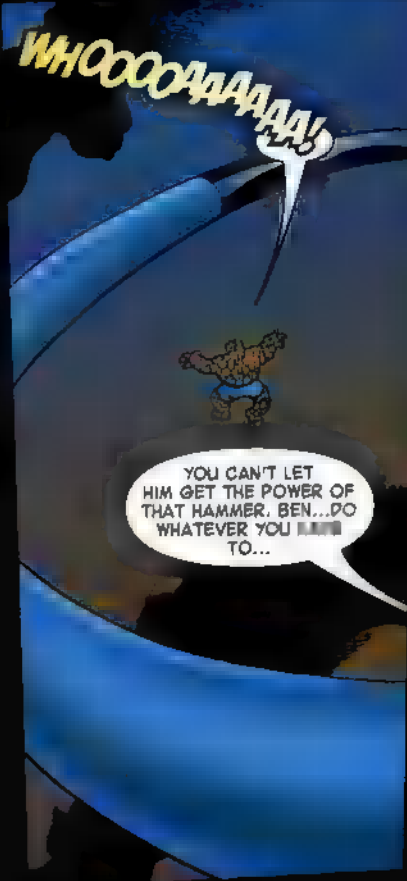
WHAT--

DOOM'S DOWN THERE, BEN...THE REAL DOOM...HE'S AFTER THOR'S HAMMER. ■■■■■ YOU TO STOP HIM. WE CAN HOLD OFF THE DOOMBOTS LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO--



DOOM?

HOW'D HE GET OUT? I--



WHOOOOAAAAA!!!

YOU CAN'T LET HIM GET THE POWER OF THAT HAMMER. BEN...DO WHATEVER YOU ■■■■■ TO...



"...BUT STOP HIM."



HEY, DOOMIE... HOW'S IT CLANKIN'?

STAND ASIDE, GRIMM...I HAVE NO TIME FOR INTERRUPTIONS.

YEAH? THEN I GUESS YOU BETTER MAKE TIME--

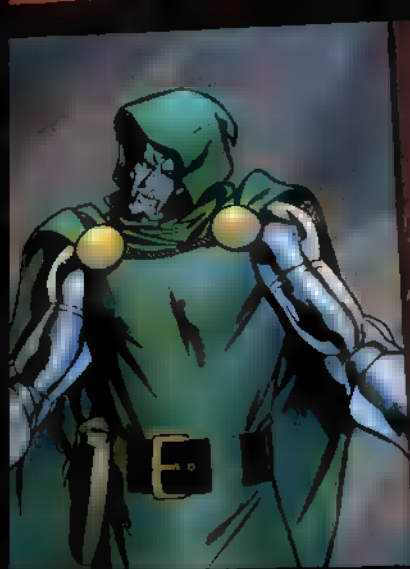
BOOM!



KA-WHOOM!

--CAUSE
IT'S BATTLE
TIME





MY
TURN
NOW.



AAAAARRRGGHHH!

MY
EYES!



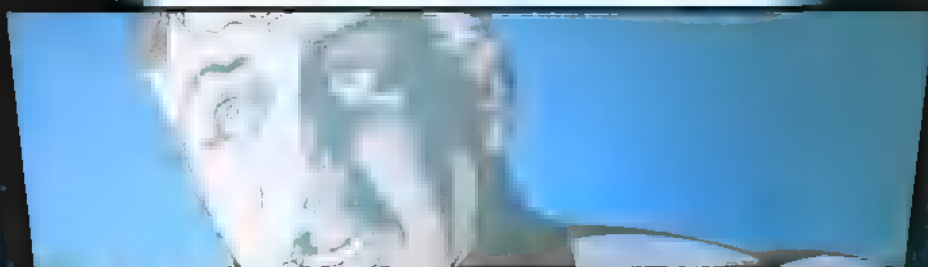
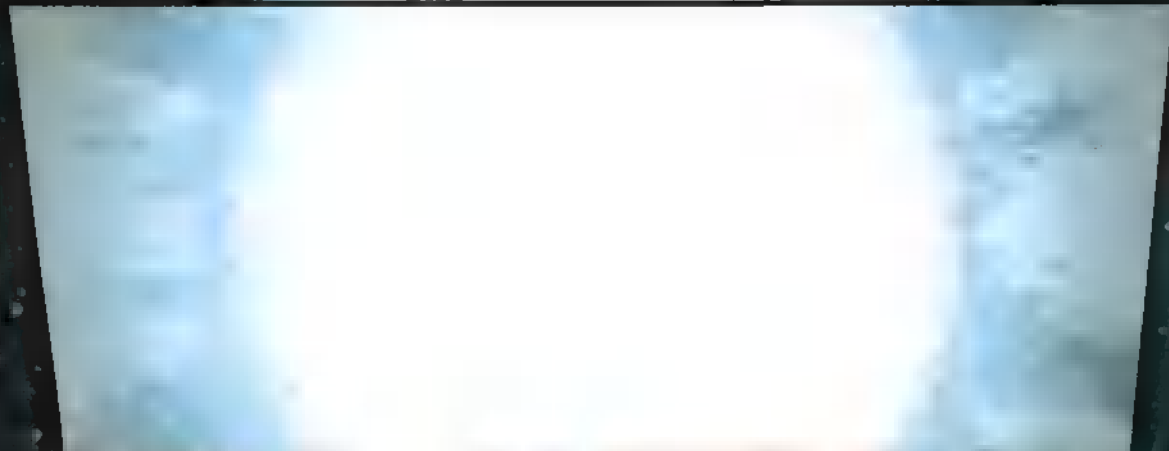
YOU CANNOT
STRIKE WHAT YOU
CANNOT SEE.

I CAN STILL
HEAR YA, YA
CREEP, AND
I--

WHATEVER YOU
WERE GOING TO SAY
AT THE END OF THAT
SENTENCE, GRIMM--



--IT'S FAR,
FAR TOO
LATE.





WHAT--

--THE
HECK--

--WAS
THAT?



I...I
DON'T KNOW,
I...

BEN? BEN,
CAN YOU HEAR
ME? ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?



YEAH...
SWELL...

NOW I KNOW
WHAT A TOASTED
MARSHMALLOW
FEELS LIKE.

OW...



THE
QUESTION IS,
WHERE'S--

OH.

WELL, THERE'S
SOMETHING YOU DON'T
EVERY DAY.



NO...IT'S
NOT RIGHT...I
THOUGHT--

--I FELT THE
TOUCH OF THE
ASGARDIANS AS
THEY FELL...

...FELT THE
POWER OF THOR FOR
JUST A MOMENT AS
RAGNAROK TORE
THROUGH HELL ITSELF.
I THOUGHT--

--I THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE
ENOUGH.

I--



--I WAS
WRONG.



BUT I WILL
NOT ALLOW
MYSELF TO
REMAIN AND
SUFFER YOUR
GLOATING.



KEEP THE
CURSED HAMMER...
POOM DOES
NOT NEED IT.



LET IT
BE...THOR'S
TOMBSTONE!



JOHNNY,
CAN YOU--



ARE YOU
KIDDING? AFTER
THAT BLAST,
I'M DOING
GOOD JUST TO
STAND.

WHAT
WAS THAT,
REED?

I'M NOT
SURE,
JOHNNY.

DOOM SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING BEEN TOUCHED BY THE POWER OF THE DYING ASGARDIANS WHILE HE WAS IN HELL. PERHAPS BY TOUCHING IT, HE--

--WOKE IT UP, FOR LACK OF A BETTER PHRASE.

THAT BEING THE CASE, THEN PERHAPS THAT BLAST OF FORCE WAS A SIGNAL OF SOME KIND.

A SIGNAL? TO WHOM?

I DON'T KNOW, I--

BEN? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT DOWN THERE?

BEN...?

WHAT'RE YOU--

C'MON, STRETCH, TELL THE TRUTH--

--IF YOU HAD THE CHANCE--

--LNNNGGGHH--

--WOULDN'T YOU GIVE IT A SHOT--

--UURRRRRKKKK--

--JUST IN CASE?

Fantastic Four

Welcome back, FF Fans! Did you miss us in the last 29 days?

You've got another month to answer our poll question from last issue: **Who is your favorite of the FF's cosmic foes -- Galactus, Annihilus, the Skrulls, or the Kree? Make your opinion heard!**

Onto this month's mailbag.

Dear Marvel,

I'm sorry this has to be my first letter to you, but I just read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #530 and FF #536 back to back and found something that really bothered me. In ASM, Tony Stark and the other heroes have their secret meeting the day before Tony testifies on Capitol Hill. However, in FF #536, Reed comes home from the meeting where Tony presents them with the bill. The news then shows Tony and Peter coming out of Capitol Hill and replays a scene from ASM #530 claiming these events took place yesterday; the day BEFORE the secret meeting. Is this a continuity error or was the meeting that Reed came home from a second meeting?

I'm hoping it's not a continuity error. I'd be a little disappointed if it were.

Matthew Leonard
(via e-mail)

Matt, Reed Richards is a busy, busy man. It's entirely possible that on his way home from the Illuminati meeting, he ended up in some parallel universe where he teamed up with an alternate universe version of Doctor Doom to fight evil incarnations of the other FF members before traveling back in time and ending up on a pirate ship with Blackbeard (who, of course, is really Ben Grimm) and eventually making his way back to the Baxter Building. That or he got stuck in the take-out line at Taco Bell. Regardless, it seems to have taken him a long time to get home. I bet he's tired.

After twenty-five years as a loyal Marvel reader, FF #536 has finally inspired me to write you a letter. The long awaited return of Doom and the hammer of Thor in one issue--THANK YOU! Dr. Doom, being the polar opposite

Fan Page

of Reed Richards, in my opinion, has always given the book a chance to let Reed think outside his comfort zone (accepting magic instead of science for example), resulting in a much deeper storyline. Now for the Hammer --I started collecting issues of THOR twenty years ago at the age of thirteen, and I'm proud to say I have every issue from JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83 to the tragic slumber of the Gods final issue. Marvel needs Thor. Yes, the fan base is smaller than years ago, but we are still out here. With the right team and a little revamping, Thor could be a top seller.

Jay Wescom

Wait, what? We're bringing back Thor? That's news to me! All I saw in issue #536 was the hammer, and we've found that neither cunning Doctor Doom nor super-strong Ben Grimm can lift the mighty weapon! Then again, check out the next two pages... who is the man at the bus station and why is he going to Oklahoma? Could it have something to do with the tag on his suitcase? Hmmmm...

Hi, people.

Although sometimes I get frustrated at comics that constantly go over "what has gone before," sometimes it's necessary. Case in point: Thor. I don't know what's supposed to have happened to him and how his hammer has ended up coming back from deep space. Some kind of update would have been appreciated. But then again, where do you draw the line? I suppose what I'm trying to say is I expect you guys to know when I need the extra info and provide it on request. What do you mean, not reasonable? Oh, well!

John Rule
Manchester, England

Your wish is our command, John. I have one word for you: Ragnarok. The Asgardian gods are dead, and Thor is taking a rest for a while. For the full story of what happened, you can check

out the THOR: DISASSEMBLED trade paperback, which collects THOR #80-#85. Hopefully this issue of FF gave you the Cliffs Notes version of how the hammer got from Asgard to Earth.

Next month, make sure to check out FANTASTIC FOUR: A DEATH IN THE FAMILY, and witness the death of one of the FF's most beloved members. Really. Check out the awesome cover by Lee Weeks and Morry Hollowell below.



From June to November, a CIVIL WAR erupts between our fabulous foursome as our monthly title ties into with Marvel's big summer event. There are some big changes for Reed, Sue, Johnny and Ben, so stay tuned!



See you next issue!

Molly Lazer
On Fire

MOLLY LAZER
& AUBREY SITTERSON
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"OKAY TO
PRINT"

"BECAUSE AFTER ALL...
IT HAS TA BELONG
TA SOMEBODY."

--WHERE SCIENTISTS
ARE STILL PUZZLING
OVER A BRILLIANT FLASH
THAT LIT UP THE NIGHT
SKY OVER OKLAHOMA
TONIGHT.

THE FLASH LASTED
ONLY A MOMENT, BUT
WAS APPARENTLY
RESPONSIBLE FOR
CAUSING A BLACKOUT
OVER MOST OF THE
STATE.

JUST
THE ONE
TICKET?

THAT'S
RIGHT.

ONE-
WAY?

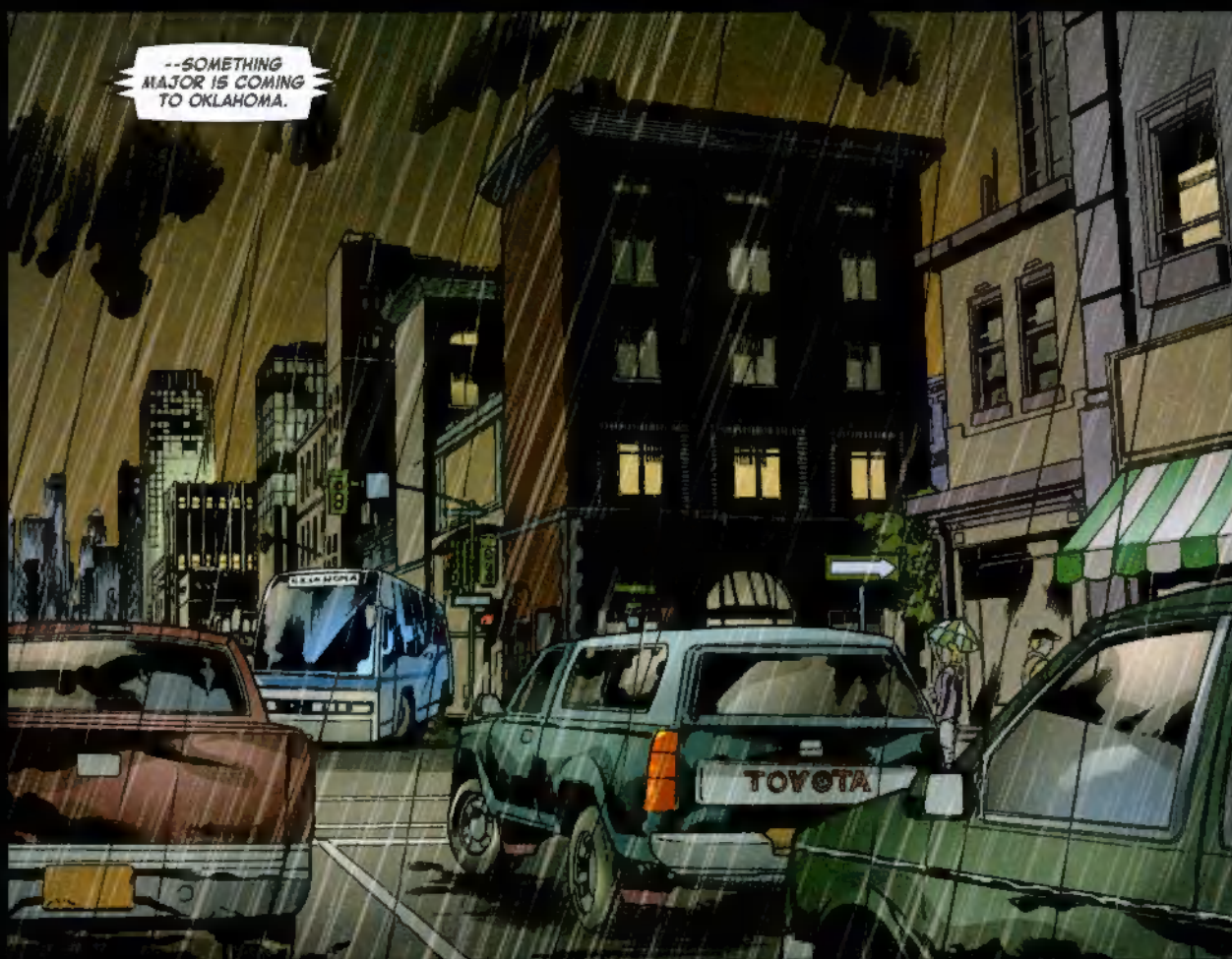
THAT'S
RIGHT.

THERE YOU
GO. BETTER GET
A MOVE ON...THE
BUS IS ABOUT
TO LEAVE.

I WILL.
THANKS.



--SOMETHING
MAJOR IS COMING
TO OKLAHOMA.



The HAMMER FALLS

PART TWO

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